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In addition to organization and executive ability, the engineer should have some statistical knowledge if he is to fulfill the highest purpose in his work. Careful records must be kept of turnover, accidents, illness, and absence, not of the plant in its entirety, but by departments and occupations, and these records must be correlated and analyzed so as to show where deficiencies lie and upon whose shoulders the responsibility for their correction rests.

From what has been said it is evident that the position of this new member of the industrial community is an important one. He should be the administrative head of the industrial-relations group of activities. His place as head of the medical department is assured by education, training, and experience. He should coordinate his work with that of the employment department on account of his knowledge of individual workers gained through physical examinations, his knowledge of the requirements of the job and of working conditions. He should work in close harmony with the safety department by reason of his contact with accident cases and his knowledge of plant processes and hazards. He should aid in the work of the welfare department by reason of the intimate contacts that have been established by his relations with workers in other departments and in their homes. Combining these duties with those of the interpretation of factory records having a direct influence upon production, the opportunity for education in preventive medicine, and the influence he has in shaping the home and community environment, it seems that the member of the medical profession who successfully accomplishes them is entitled to add to his name the degree of Human Engineer.

THE SEAMEN'S SERVICE CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY.

By E. W. SCOTT, Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

There has just been established in New York City the "Seamen's Service Center," to operate under the direction of the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service in cooperation with the American Red Cross, volunteer agencies, and individuals, for the purpose of assisting merchant-marine seamen entering the port of New York. It will act as a clearing house through which the sick, disabled, and needy sailors of the merchant fleets of the world may be distributed to cooperating social agencies or individuals for detailed help, and, when necessary, sent to institutions, hospitals, or dispensaries for proper care and treatment.

There are various agencies in the city of New York for these and similar purposes, and it is the object of this Center to act as a clearing house through which the seamen may be directed to the

assistance they need. The creation of the Center does not mean that a new organization has entered the field, but rather that an effort is being made to coordinate and centralize the work of all existing organizations in the city. Every organization seeking to be of service to merchant-marine seamen is to be recognized by the Center and its facilities are to be utilized. No individual organization loses its identity, nor is it curtailed in its activities. On the contrary, each organization will be stimulated and assisted to develop a wider field of useful action; each specific requirement to be carried out by the organization best fitted to meet the particular need of cases.

There will be maintained at the Center, however, facilities for examination and diagnosis, and there will be in attendance at all times medical officers who will function as differentiators. When a seaman presents himself complaining of feeling ill and asking for direction to a hospital or clinic, he is to be given a careful physical examination. The exact length of time he is to be in port will be ascertained and his case handled accordingly. He will be kept under observation while in the hospital, and any personal service that may be required will be looked after by the person officially detailed as his visitor. If he is an ambulatory case and is referred to a clinic for treatment, it will be ascertained whether or not his ship carries a surgeon; and if his ship does not carry a surgeon he will be given medicine and equipment for his treatment during the voyage, and explicit directions as to how to use same. If he is unable to pay for this service, it will be furnished to him free of charge. This branch of the work will be given especial attention in cases of infection with either gonorrhea or syphilis. He will also be furnished with names and addresses of reputable physicians or of an authorized clinic or hospital at the first port he strikes, and with a record of the diagnosis, history, and previous treatment of his case. Nurses and others trained in social service and follow-up work will serve when needed and keep records of all cases handled through the Center.

Another special feature of the work will be a registrar who will keep the names and home addresses of seamen, and who will inform relatives and friends concerning the condition of sick and disabled seamen, and communicate to relatives any information he may desire to send them.

Providing social service facilities for merchant-marine seamen is by no means a new idea with the United States Public Health Service. For more than 50 years this service has been extended to seamen of the American merchant marine, as an individual effort on the part of the staffs of the various marine hospitals. The chief

object of the present organized effort is to establish an international service for the care of the health of merchant-marine seamen of all flags.

The experience of two years' work with venereal-disease control among civilians, including seamen, has proved that to do effective work several things must be done. The most important of these are provisions for maintaining certain health standards, and recreation and follow-up work; and to achieve this end for seamen the Seamen's Service Center has been established. As this work is to be carried on with men who have but limited social opportunities, it is difficult to do effective work, and the plan under way is to create a system of effective social work which will provide safeguards for seamen while ashore and to create opportunities for them to improve their physical condition and social status, rather than to expose themselves to hazards which may undermine their health and future welfare.

The necessity for protective social measures for seamen was first expressed by an officer of the Public Health Service in 1873, when the following statement was made in the annual report of the supervising surgeon of the Marine Hospital Service for that year:

"Fully 30 per cent of all cases treated by the marine-hospital surgeon are of preventable diseases—'preventable' not in the ordinary sense of that term but in the much narrower one of being so by compliance with a few of the simplest and most obvious requirements of decent living."

No specific reference is made in the above quotation to the prevalence of venereal infection among seamen at that time, but in the annual report for 1919 the following statement is made:

"The exact percentage (of venereal diseases) is unknown, but the records of the marine hospitals which have been devoted to the care of American seamen, show that over 22 per cent of all disabilities treated were due to venereal diseases."

Again referring to the annual report for the year 1873, we find that Dr. Heber Smith, Surgeon, United States Marine Hospital Service, New York City, in advocating protective social work among seamen, stated in an article entitled "The Sailor and the Service at the Port of New York":

"Among the duties of the doctor of medicine, in modern times, the study of the causes of disease and the search for measures of prevention have come to be recognized as equal at least, if not paramount, in value to the highest technical skill and the most successful application of remedies when disease actually exists. In this broader field the physician becomes the student and investigator not only of man's physical, but also of his social and moral environment, and the bearing and effect of the most diverse and apparently remote influences

are traced to their results in the production of disease and death, or the conservation of health and life.

"What is thus true of the doctor in medicine in general, is especially so of the medical officer of the Marine Hospital Service. To him is confided not merely the medical and surgical care of the sick and disabled who may be entitled to relief from the marine hospital fund, but the authority to determine the validity of the claim for such relief. This authority carried with it the implied responsibility of guarding the fund from claims growing out of avoidable or preventable causes. Hence it is peculiarly within the province of the marine hospital surgeon to inquire into the surroundings and conditions of the sailor, both afloat and ashore; to study the effects of his avocation afloat in the production of disease; to investigate his habits when ashore, and the laws and other influences which affect him; and to suggest such measures of correction or relief as may prevent his becoming a charge upon the fund and best preserve him in the vigor of health and usefulness.

"* * * let us follow a sailor from his arrival in port to his departure upon another voyage.

"While to the weary passenger the sight of land and the approach to the familiar scenes of the home port is one of the most joyous occasions of his life, his happiness is seldom shared by the sailor before the mast, who knows too well the home and the friends that await him.

"* * * What kind of a place is prepared for his reception? Few that have not had actual experience would credit a faithful description of the vile dens situated in the very worst parts of the City. In such streets as Baxter, Water, and Cherry, in old dilapidated houses, reeking with filth and vermin, the sailor is shown to a bunk in a room that has as many double, and in some cases treble, tiers as it will hold, and without a sign of a convenience for the ordinary necessities of life; and that is his lodging place. In the saloon, or living room of the house, he is surrounded by a crowd of creatures, male and female, in various stages of intoxication; and can it be thought strange, if, under such circumstances, he immediately proceeds to get as drunk as his associates? How can he escape? Each newcomer is expected to contribute to the hilarity of the crowd, and he would be forthwith thrashed and then pitched into the street if he failed to meet such expectation. And this is his home."

At the recently organized "Seamen's Service Center" in New York City, located at 21 Coenties Slip, there will be maintained a bureau of information. This information bureau will have knowledge of the location of rooms for rent to transit seamen, boarding houses, laundries, places where recreational facilities or social opportunities are available, reading rooms, and places of interest to seamen.

A twenty-four-hour medical service will be maintained in order to care for seamen becoming ill or meeting with accident at times when the steamship offices or the consular offices are closed. A system of hospital and dispensary social service will be maintained for

all hospitals and dispensaries making a specialty of treating merchant seamen.

In developing the American merchant marine there is no more important field of activity than that of making the life of American seamen more attractive, and offering opportunities for social environment that is interesting and beneficial.

To do these things will be the object of the New York Center, which should become the pioneer of other similar institutions to be established at the leading American ports.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

During the year 1919 the Union of South Africa, falling in line with Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada, established, through the enactment of its Parliament, a department of health. The act provides that the department shall be known as the Department of Public Health and shall be under the control of a minister and in respect of which there shall be a portfolio of public health.

By the text of the act the functions of the department are "to prevent or guard against the introduction of infectious disease into the Union from outside; to promote the public health and the prevention, limitation, or suppression of infectious, communicable, or preventable diseases within the Union; to advise and assist provincial administrations and local authorities in regard to matters affecting the public health; to promote or carry out researches and investigations in connection with the prevention or treatment of human diseases; to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relative to the public health, and generally to carry out in accordance with directions the powers and duties in relation to the public health conferred or imposed on the governor general or the minister by this act or otherwise."

The act also provides that "it shall be the duty of the department to obtain and publish periodically such information regarding infectious disease and other health matters in the Union, and such procurable information regarding epidemic disease in territories adjacent to the Union or in other countries, as the interests of the public health may require."

Without going into a detailed discussion of the provisions of the act, its scope is indicated by the matters dealt with in the separate chapters. It is divided into nine chapters relating to the following matters, respectively:

Chapter I. Administration.

Chapter II. Notification of infectious diseases.